

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing in the hope that you will help us find worthy candidates among your graduate students for the Bowdoin Prize, one of Harvard's oldest and most prestigious student awards. The award is designed to recognize essays of originality and high literary merit, written in a way that engages both specialists and non-specialists. There are two categories for the prizes: essays concerning the natural sciences and "essays in the English Language" in any field of learning. (In recent years, this latter category has primarily attracted students in the humanities, but students in the social science disciplines are equally encouraged to submit essays for consideration.) Competition is open to GSAS students currently in residence, and the deadlines are as follows:

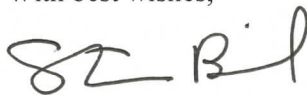
- * Graduate English: Monday, November 14, 2011
- * Graduate Natural Sciences: Monday, November 21, 2011

Since its inception in 1810, the Bowdoin Prize has been awarded to many notable Harvard students, among them the philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson, the former Harvard presidents Charles Eliot and Nathan Pusey, the historians Henry Adams and Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., and the novelist John Updike. Along with a substantial cash award, winners receive a bronze medal engraved with their name and the year in which they won the prize as well as an inscribed vellum certificate signed by the President of the University.

Students nominate their own work for the prizes. For specific details about submission requirements for each prize, they should visit the Prize Office website and follow the links to "Bowdoin Prizes for Graduate Students."

Thank you for helping to spread the word about this important prize. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Biel'.

Steven Biel
Chair, Committee on the Administration of the Bowdoin Prize
Executive Director, Mahindra Humanities Center
Senior Lecturer on History and Literature